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SIX HUNDRED GAELIC PROVERBS COLLECTED IN ULSTER.

BY ROBERT MACADAM.

*(Continued from Vol. vi., Page 267.)**Women, Love, Courtship, Marriage.*

333. An àit a m-biann mna biann caint, a's an àit a m-biann gèidh biann callàn. [Wherever there are women there is talking; and wherever there are geese there is cackling.
 Italian. *Dove sono donne ed ocche,
 Non vi sono parole poche.*
 English. *Many women, many words.*
334. Is foisge do bhean leithsgeal nà bràiscin. [A woman has an excuse readier than an apron.]
335. Triùir nach bh-fulaingean altrum, sean-bhean, cearc, agus caora. [There are three things that do not bear nursing, an old woman, a hen, and a sheep.]
i.e., who are not thankful for being nursed.
336. Rùn caillighe a' sgollaireacht. [The secret of an old woman scolding.]
i.e., no secret at all, for a scolding woman will let it out in her rage.
337. Is bean gan leithsgeal gan sgiste, bean gan phiopa gan phàisde. [The woman has neither excuse nor rest who has not a pipe nor a child.]
338. Is maith a bhean i, acht char bhain si a bròga di go foill. [She is a good wife, but she has not taken off her shoes yet.]
i.e., she has not been proved yet:—speaking of a new wife.
339. Biann na mna falta, char lèig an nàire dòibh na fir a dhiùltadh. [Women are shy, and shame prevents them from refusing the men.]
 Scotch. *Do as the lasses do: say 'Na,' and tak' it.*
340. Chan 'uìl ach pleiseàm dram a thabhairt do chailligh. [It is nothing but folly to treat an old woman to a dram.]
341. Praiseach bhuidhe na ngort chuireas mna na Midhe le h-olc. [It is the yellow *preshagh* that brings the Meath women to harm.]
 In former times, when cabbages were not generally cultivated in Ireland, the wild kail (called in Irish *Praiseach*), was often made use of as a kitchen vegetable. The proverb alludes to the practice of the women who, in going out in the evening to gather it in the fields, made this an excuse for meeting their lovers.
342. An rud reamhar do'n mhnaoi bhreòite. [Give the dainty bit to the sickly woman.]

343. Glacann droch-bhean comhairle gach fir acht a fir fèin. [A bad wife takes advice from every man but her own husband.]
444. Cha n-è cossa a mathar a nigh si. [It was not her mother's feet that she washed.]
Said when a daughter turns out badly; *i.e.*, "She was not a good daughter, and will have no luck."
345. Fuarann gradh go grod. [Love cools quickly.]
346. Is anamh earrach gan fuacht. [Spring is seldom without some cold.]
There is no youthful love without occasional coolness.
347. Is olc a bhean tigh, inghean na caillighe às gaidh. [The daughter of an active old woman makes a bad housekeeper.]
Spanish. *Madre piadosa cria hija merdosa.* [An indulgent mother makes a sluttish daughter.]
Scotch. *A busy mither maks a dawty dochter.*
348. Losg si a gual a's cha dearna si a goradh. [She burnt her coal and did not warm herself.]
Said when a woman makes a bad marriage.
349. Nà gabh bean gan locht. [Never take a wife who has no fault.]
Because there is no such thing to be found.
350. Ceannsuigheann gach uile fhear droch-bhean acht a fear fèin. [Every man can control a bad wife but her own husband.]
Latin. *Facile omnes cum valemus ægrotis consilia damus.*
351. Chan'uil de bheann aici air, acht urad a's bheidheadh ag madadh dhà bhliadhna air a mhathair. [She has only as much regard for him as a two-year-old dog has for his mother.]
352. Ma chuaidh si chun a t-srotha, ni leis a disclead. [If she went to the stream, it was not with the dish-clout.]
Said of a girl seduced by a person of higher rank, or of one who marries unexpectedly, but improves her condition. An excuse for frailty.
353. Faisiùn mna na cille le mna na tuaithe, alpàn chuca a's millin uatha. [The usual custom of the nuns with the country-women—they receive a great lump, and they give a small one in return.]
Alluding to nuns (and ecclesiastics in general) who were in the habit of giving presents of small value, in the expectation of receiving greater. English. *Throwing a sprat to catch a salmon.*
354. Is tèide do'n m-brat a dhùbladh. [A blanket is the warmer of being doubled.]
Said when relations marry.
355. Aithnighear fear na cuaròige air fàithche a measg chàich. [The husband of the sloven is known in the field amidst a crowd.]
356. Fàl fa'n meur 's gan ribe fa'n tòin. [A ring on the finger and not a stitch of clothes on the back.]

Family Ties.

357. Ma's fogus damh mo chòta, is foisge nà sin damh mo lèine. [Though my coat is near me, my shirt is still nearer.]
Spanish. *Mas cerca està la camisa que el say.* [The shirt is nearer than the coat.]

358. An easgann ag ithe a'rubail. [The eel eating her own tail.]
Speaking ill of our own relations.
359. Is olc seanadh an èin a thrèigeas a h-èunlaith fèin. [The bird has little affection that deserts its own brood.]
360. Is tìbhe fuil nà uisge. [Blood is thicker than water.]
Spanish. *Mas vale onza de sangre que libra de amistad.* [An ounce of blood is worth more than a pound of friendship.]
361. Ma 's dubh, ma 's odhar no donn, Is d'a meannan fèin bheir a gabhar a fonn. [Whether it be black, dun, or brown, it is its own kid that the goat loves.]
362. Saoileann an prèachan gur b'è èin fèin is deise anns a choill. [The crow thinks his own young ones the most beautiful in the wood.]
English. *All her geese are swans.* Latin. *Sum cuique pulchrum.*

Children.

363. Suidhe mhic a d-tigh an athara, suidhe leathan socair; [The son's seat in his father's house is wide and steady,
Acht suidhe an athar' a d-tigh a mhic, suidhe cruinn corrach. But the father's seat in his son's house is round and shaky.]
364. A dhaoine grinne, an d-tuigeann sibh cùrsa na cloinne, [Ye wise men, are you aware of the nature of children?
Dar linn-ne budh leòibh-san, a's da m-ba leòibh-san ni h-ar linn-ne. Anything we have is theirs, but what they get is not ours.]
365. An tè chaomhnas a t-slat, milleann se a mac. [He who spares the rod spoils the boy.]
366. Clann na n-daoine sona, adhbhar na n-daoine dona. [The children of lucky men are the materials of future unlucky men.]
Latin. *Heroum filii noxii.*
367. An nidh a chi an leanabh, 'sè a ghnidh an leanabh. [The thing the child sees is what the child does.]
Spanish. *Lo que se aprende en la cuna, siempre dura.* [What is learned in the cradle always lasts.]
368. Char bhris ceare na n-èun a sprogaille a rìamh. [A hen with chickens never yet burst her craw.]
Because she starves herself to give all to her chickens:—said of a mother.
Scotch. *Bairn's milher burst never.*
369. Is beag a bhualtear an leanabh nach dean gearan. [It requires little beating to make a child cry.]

370. Is fearr mathair phòcain nà athair seistrigh. [A begging mother is better than a ploughing father.]

The beggar-woman is fonder of her children than the father.

371. Is minic a thig saoi ò dhaoi. [Often a clown's son is a gentleman.]

372. 'Sè a leanabh fèin a bhaistean a sagart air tùs. [The priest christens his own child first.]

Oftensaid as a kind of excuse for serving one's self first. I do not know the origin of the proverb.

Personal Appearance.

373. Cha robh bolg mòr fial a riamh. [A big belly was never generous.]

Latin. *Venter obesus non gignit mentem subtilem.*

374. Chan 'uil si beag deas no mòr gràna. [She is neither small and pretty, nor big and ugly.]

i.e., She is worse than either.

375. Fear dubh, dana; fear fionn, glideamhuil; [A dark-haired man is bold, a light-haired one timid;

Fear donn, dùalach; fear ruadh, sgigeamhuil. A brown-haired man has luxuriant hair, and a red-haired is a scoffer.]

English. *Fair and foolish, black and proud,*

Long and lazy, little and loud.

Scotch. *Grey-eyed greedy, brown-eyed needy.*

Black-eyed never blin', till it shame a' its kin; and

Fair folk are aye fuzionless.

Spanish. *Asno cojo, y hombre rojo, y el demonio, todo es uno.* [A lame ass, a red-haired man, and the devil are all one.]

376. 'Sè an t-èadach a ghni an duine. [The clothes make the man.]

English. *The tailor makes the man; and Fine feathers make fine birds. But on the contrary,*

Italian. *L'abito non fa il monaco.*

377. Fòiridh fear odhar do bhean riabhach. [A sallow man suits a swarthy woman.]

378. Is fearr greim de choinin nà dhà ghreim de chat. [One bit of a rabbit is worth two bits of a cat.]

Applied in various ways: as for instance, to a little man who is abler at anything than a big fellow; or to one who prefers a small drop of whiskey to a glass of beer.

379. Is maith a comhartha Criosdaidhe, brighiste bàna. [White breeches are a good indication of a Christian.]

This must allude to some local story.

380. Cionn mòr air bheagan cèille. [Big head and little sense.]

But the Scotch Highlanders have a proverb more in accordance with phrenology—

Ceann mòr air dhuine glie, a's ceann ceirce air amadan. [A big head on a wise man, and a hen's head on a fool.]

Spanish. *Cabello longo y corto el seso.* [Long hair and little brains.]

Death.

381. Biann dùil le bèul fairge, acht cha bhiann le bèul uaighe. [There is hope from the mouth of the sea, but not from the mouth of the grave.]
 Spanish. *A la muerte no hay cosa fuerte.* [Nothing is strong against death.]
 Italian. *A ogni cosa é remedio fuori qu' alla morte.*
382. Cha d-tig an bàs gan adhbhar. [Death does not come without a reason.]
383. Ta se a nois a staid na firinne, agus sinn-ne air staid na brèige. [He is now in the state of truth, and we are in the state of untruth.]
384. Cabhair an bhochtàin, bèul na h-uaighe. [The poor man's relief is the mouth of the grave.]
385. Biann sùil le muir, acht cha bhiann sùil le cill. [There is hope from the sea, but no hope from the cemetery.]
386. Tinneas fàda a's èug ann a bhun. [A long illness, and death at its close.]
i.e., Death will end the longest illness.
387. Eug a's imirce a chlaoidheas tigheabhas. [Death and removals upset housekeeping.]

Fate, Predestination, Things to be Expected.

388. An tè a m-beidh se 'n a chineamhuin a chrochadh, ni bhàithtear go brèth è. [He whose fate it is to be hanged will never be drowned.]
389. An tè a'r 'n-dàn dò an donas, is dò fèin a bhaineas. [If a man be doomed to have bad luck, it is on himself (only) it falls.]
390. Deircadh gach luinge, bathadh, [The end of every ship is drowning,
 A's deircadh gach àiche, losgadh; And the end of every kiln is burning;
 Deircadh gach cuirme, caitheamh, The end of every feast is wasting,
 A's deircadh gach gàire, osna. And the end of every laugh is sighing.]
 Shakspeare applies the word 'drown' to inanimate objects, thus—
 "deeper than ever did plummet sound
 I'll drown my book."—*The Tempest.*
 "to drown my clothes, and say I was stripped.—*All's Well that Ends Well.*
- Spanish. *Cantarillo que muchas veces va à la fuente ó deza la asa ó la frente.* [The pitcher that goes often to the well leaves either its handle or its mouth.]
391. Fa bhun a chrainn a thuiteas a duilleabhar. [It is at the foot of the tree the leaves fall.]
 Curses are apt to fall on the very person who has uttered them.
392. Tar èis stoirme thig sìth. [After a storm comes a calm.]
393. Cha dùal sagart gan chleireach, a's cha dùal Domhnach gan aifrionn. [It is not usual for a priest to be without a clerk, nor a Sunday without Mass.]
 Used when a person says 'Amen' on hearing another utter a self-curse.

394. Chan 'uil coill air bith gan a losgadh fèin de chrionlach innti. [There is no forest without as much brushwood as will burn it.]
i.e. (as explained to me once by a man who had used the proverb) "There is enough of sin in every man to burn him in hell."
The axe is the destroyer of the forest, but the forest itself furnishes the handle.
 Ruckert. *Wisdom of the Bramins.*
 Spanish. *Del monte sale quien el monte quema.* [From the mountain issues what burns it.]
395. Guid è bheithèa brath air chat acht pisin? [What would you expect from a cat but a kitten?]
396. 'N uair fhagas na cait a baile, biann na luchògaidh a' rince. [When the cat leaves the village, the mice dance.]
 Latin. *Absente fele saliant mures.*
 Italian. *Quando la gatta non è in paese i topi ballano.*
397. Cha duàl Sathairn gan griàn, 's cha dual Domhnach gan aifrionn. [It is not usual for Saturday to be without sunshine, nor Sunday without Mass.]
 Meaning no day at all.
398. Trath sguireas an lamh de shileadh, stadaidh an beal de mholadh. [When the hand ceases to scatter, the mouth ceases to praise.]
 Scotch. *A fu' purse never lacks friends.*
399. An uair a bhios a cupàn làn, cuiridh se thairis. [When the cup is full, it will run over.]
 A person full of evil thoughts is sure to let them out.
400. An tè fhalaigheas, 'sè a gheabhas. [He that hides will find.]
 Spanish. *Donde perdiste la capa, ahí la cata.* [Search for your cloak where you lost it.]
401. Char fhadaigh dis teine gan troid. [Two persons never fixed a fire without disagreeing.]
 French. *Le potier au potier porte envie.*
 English. *Two of a trade can never agree.*
402. Dean maith air dheagh-dhuine a's gheabhaidh tu d'a reir. [Do good to a good man, and you will receive a proper return;
 Acht ma ghnidhir maith air dhròch-dhuine, beidh an But if you do good to a bad man,
 dròch-dhuine dò fein. he will look to himself.]
403. A bh-fad as amhare, a g-clan as intinn. [Far out of sight, far out of mind.]
404. Is furas fuineadh a n-aice mine (*or* a chois mine.) [It is easy to make dough beside meal.]
405. Is furas teine a lasadh a chois connaidh. [It is easy to light a fire beside faggots.]
406. Is furas fuileadh air chionn charrach. [It is easy to draw blood from a scald-head.]
 It is easy to wound a tender spot. Applied in many ways.
407. Ni luaithe craicionn na sean-chaoracha air an aonach nà craicienn na caoracha òige. [The skin of the old sheep does not go sooner to the fair than the skin of the young one.]
 A young person is not more certain of life than an old one. "Be not too confident in your youth and strength." *The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong.—Bible.*
 French. *Aussitôt meurt veau comme vache.*

408. An nìdh nach bh-faicear no nach g-cluintheas, cha bhiann tracht air. [When a thing is neither seen nor heard of, there is no talk about it.]
409. Is socair a chodlas duine air chneadh dhuine eile. [A man sleeps very soundly on another man's wound.]
410. Coatlirar sagart gan a bheith sanntach, [Four priests that are not greedy,
Ceathrar Francach gan a bheith buidhe, Four Frenchmen that are not yellow,
Ceathrar grèusaidhe gan a bheith brèugach, Four shoemakers that are not liars,
Sin dà fhear dhèug nach b-fhuil 's a tìr (or s'a grìch). These are twelve men not in the country.]
Spanish. *Cien sastres, y cien molineros, y cien texedores, son trescientos ladrones.* [A hundred tailors, a hundred millers, and a hundred weavers, are three hundred thieves.]
411. Ma thuiteann cloch le fànaidh, is annsa g-carnàn a stadaidh si. [If a stone rolls down the slope it is on the heap below it will fall.
If a man falls from a position for which he is not fitted, he finds his level. Applied also to persons who are so habitually unlucky that if anything unfortunate happens they are sure to have a share.]
412. Cha dual toit gan teine, 's cha dual teine gan daoine. [There is not usually smoke without fire, nor fire without people.]
French. *Nul feu sans fumée.*
Spanish. *Donde fuego se hace, humo sale.* [Where the fire is made, smoke arises.]
Latin. *Flamma fumo est proxima.*
413. Cha dual grian gan sgàile. [There is not usually sunshine without shadow.]
414. Is de'n g-cat a t-earbull. [The tail is (part) of the cat.]
A man may be expected to resemble the family he comes from.

Impossible, unlikely, or absurd things.

415. Cleath fhada (or, claidheamh fada) a làimh claidhaire. [A long pole (or a long sword) in the hand of a coward.]
Good tools are lost on a person who cannot use them properly.
416. Mur madadh a' tapan a n-aghaidh na gealaighe. [Like a dog barking at the moon.]
Applied to useless talking. Italian. *I roghi dell'asino non entrano in cielo.*
English. *Every ass likes to hear himself bray.* Latin. *Vox et præterea nihil.*
417. Dhà nìdh a theid a mògha, mòin air shliabh, agus ciall aig duine bocht. [There are two things that go to loss, turf on a mountain, and intelligence in a poor man.]
Spanish. *Al desdichado, poco vale ser esforzado.* [It avails little for the unfortunate man to be brave.]
418. Iomartas le chèile, luach chùig phonta chladheamh a's maide an doruis! [Such a comparison! a sword worth five pounds with a door-stick.]
Latin. *Fluvius cum mari certas.*

419. Sin a bheith baint na t-uighe as làimh an t-saoir. [That is like taking the axe out of the carpenter's hands.]
Said when an incompetent person takes any business out of the hands of one more fit.
420. Nà bris do loirgin air sùil nach bh-fuil ann do shlighe. [Do not be breaking your shin on a stool that is not in your way.]
421. Chan' uil annsin acht "seachain an cionn is buain a muineal." [That is merely avoiding the head and striking the neck.]
i.e., avoiding one bad thing, but doing one quite as bad.
Latin. *Incidis in Scyllam cupiens vitare Charybdim.*
English. *To fall out of the frying-pan into the fire.*
Spanish. *Fluyendo del toro cayó en el arroyo.* [Flying from the bull he fell into the river.]
422. Cha lionann beannacht bolg. [A blessing does not fill a belly.]
Latin. *Fabulis venter non expletur;* and *Ne verba pro farina.*
English. *Many words will not fill a bushel.*
423. Nà tòg me go d-tuitidh me. [Don't lift me till I fall.]
English. *Don't take physic till you're sick.* Latin. *Ne prius antidotum quam venenum.*
424. Sin tòn na muice meithe do ghrèisighadh. [That is like greasing the rump of the fat hog.]
Spanish. *Al puerco gordo unterle el rabo.* [To grease the fat hog on the breech.]
English. *To take coals to Newcastle.*
Latin. *In sylvam ligna referre;* and *Juxta fluvium puteum fodit.*
French. *Porter de l'eau à la mer.*
Italian. *Veder lucciole per lanterne.*
Spanish. *Llevar hierro a Biscaya.* [To bring iron to Biscay.]
425. Is fearrde de'n chailleach a goradh, acht is misde di a losgadh. [The old hag is the better of being warmed, but the worse of being burned.]
We ought to be kind, but not over kind. Some say that this proverb refers to the burning of witches.
426. Nì còir gearran èasgaidh a ghrèasughadh. [It is not right to urge an active horse.]
427. Cuartughadh an bhodaigh air an làir, agus è air a barr 'n a shuidhe. [The clown's search for the mare, and he sitting on her.]
428. Cuartughadh gabhair gan fios a dhath. [Seeking for a goat without knowing its colour.]
Asking for what one knows nothing about.
429. Cha d-tig uachtar air bhoinne an chait. [A cat's milk gives no cream.]
Addressed to a stingy person. There is no animal so fond of cream as a cat, and her own milk yields no cream.
430. Cha d-tig le duine a bheith ag ithe mine a's a' feadalaigh air a bhall. [A man cannot whistle and eat meal at the one time.]
Latin. *Simul sorbere et flare difficile est.*
Spanish. *Sorber y soplar, no se puede hacer a la par.* [To sip and blow cannot be done at the same time.]

431. Char chaill duine dona a chuid a riamh. [An unlucky man never yet lost his property.]
Because he had none to lose.
432. Fear clumhaigh gan mhàla, agus bacach gan bhàta. [A feather-man without a bag, and a lame (beggar) without a stick.]
433. Ma fhaiceann tu cionn na muice air a mairt, nà h-aithris è. [If you see a pig's head on the cow, do not tell.]
A wise man is cautious of mentioning strange things that he may see.
434. Budh diomhain iarraidh mèitheas air chait earraigh. [It is useless to look for fatness on a spring cat.]
435. Is maith a t-each a shàsuigheas gach marcach. [It is a good horse that pleases every rider.]
436. Ag iarraidh loirg air uisge, a's a' cuartughadh snathaide a measg cothain. [Looking for a track on the water, and seeking for a needle among litter.]
Latin. *In aere piscari, in mare venari.*
437. Guid è a dubhairt Goll, acht gur deacair brighiste a bhaint de thòin lom. [What did Goll say? that it is hard to take breeches off bare hips.]
438. Rith na con a n-dèigh dà fhiadh. [The running of a hound after two deer.]
Latin. *Duos insequens lepores neutrum capit.*
Spanish. *Galgo que muchas liebras levanta ninguna mata.* [The grey-hound that starts many hares kills none.]
439. Is deacair gearr-fhiadh a chur as tum nach m-biann se ann. [It is hard to drive a hare out of a thicket where she is not.]
440. Is deacair dàmhsa a chur roimhe shean-mhadadh. [It is hard to teach an old dog to dance.]
441. Chan 'uil ann acht ag iarraidh ola air a ngabhar. [It is just like seeking for wool on a goat.]
Latin. *Mulgere hircum; and Calvum vellere.*
Spanish. *Buscar cinco pies al gato.* [To look for five feet on a cat.]
442. Bhearadh aon fhear a mhàin each chun uisge, acht ni bhearadh deichneabhar air òl. [One man could bring a horse to the water, but ten men could not make him drink.]
French. *On a beau mener le bœuf à l'eau, s'il n' a pas soif.*
443. Ni choinnigheann an soitheach acht a làn. [A vessel will only hold the full of it.]
444. Cha d-tig a bhaint as a t-sac acht a làn a bhios ann. [We can only take out of the sack as much as there is in it.]
445. N'il acht tafan gadhair a ngleann glas, a bheith tagradh le cionn gan eòlus. [It is like a hound barking in a green valley, to be arguing with an ignorant person, (*literally*, "with a head without knowledge.")]
446. Is tu fead air fuar lorg. [You are whistling on a cold track.]
Coming a day too late, or going on a useless errand.
447. Cuairt fa bhùalaidh fhalamh. [Visiting an empty paddock.]
Said of any one who is disappointed in finding what he expected.

448. Boinne ceirce a n-adharc mhuice, agus cleite cait d'a shùathadh. [Beaten up eggs in a pig's horn, and a cat's feather for mixing them.]
That is, an impossibility.
449. Fuair se nead gearrain. [He has found a horse's nest.]

Trade, Workmanship.

450. Is namhuid an cheird gan a foghlaim i. [A traie not (properly) learned is an enemy.]
451. Snaithe fada an tailleair fhallsa. [The long stitch of the lazy tailor.]
452. Mas olc a saor is maith a sgealbog. [Though the carpenter is bad, the shaving is good.]
English. *A carpenter is known by his chips.*
453. 'Si leith na ceirde an ùirleais. [The tools are the half of the trade.]
454. Chan fhuair droch-bhuanaidhe a riamh corran maith. [A bad reaper never got a good reaping-hook.]
455. Is fearr làn duirn de cheird nà làn duirn a dh'òr. [A handful of a trade is better than a handful of gold.]
A handfu' o' trade is worth a gowpen o' gowd.
456. Is minic a bhios rath air rapladh. [There is often luck with slovenliness.]
An excuse for roughly done work.
457. Ta an dà iarunn dèag 's a teallach aige. [He has twelve irons in the fire.]
Said of any one who undertakes too much business at once.

(To be continued.)